

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1639
97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5561H.03C

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 168.021, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to certification by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 168.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 168.021, to read as follows:

168.021. 1. Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the state shall be granted as follows:

(1) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by it:

(a) Upon the basis of college credit;

(b) Upon the basis of examination;

(2) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by the state board with advice from the advisory council established by section 168.015 to any individual who presents to the state board a valid doctoral degree from an accredited institution of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting association such as North Central Association. Such certificate shall be limited to the major area of postgraduate study of the holder, shall be issued only after successful completion of the examination required for graduation pursuant to rules adopted by the state board of education, and shall be restricted to those certificates established pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section;

(3) By the state board, which shall issue the professional certificate classification in both the general and specialized areas most closely aligned with the current areas of certification approved by the state board, commensurate with the years of teaching experience of the applicant, and based upon the following criteria:

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 (a) Recommendation of a state-approved baccalaureate-level teacher preparation
19 program;

20 (b) Successful attainment of the Missouri qualifying score on the exit assessment for
21 teachers or administrators designated by the state board of education. Applicants who have not
22 successfully achieved a qualifying score on the designated examinations will be issued a
23 two-year nonrenewable provisional certificate; and

24 (c) Upon completion of a background check as prescribed in section 168.133 and
25 possession of a valid teaching certificate in the state from which the applicant's teacher
26 preparation program was completed;

27 (4) By the state board, under rules prescribed by it, on the basis of a relevant bachelor's
28 degree, or higher degree, and a passing score for the designated exit examination, for individuals
29 whose academic degree and professional experience are suitable to provide a basis for instruction
30 solely in the subject matter of banking or financial responsibility, at the discretion of the state
31 board. Such certificate shall be limited to the major area of study of the holder and shall be
32 restricted to those certificates established under subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section.
33 Holders of certificates granted under this subdivision shall be exempt from the teacher tenure act
34 under sections 168.102 to 168.130 and each school district shall have the decision-making
35 authority on whether to hire the holders of such certificates; or

36 (5) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by it, on the basis of
37 certification by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) and
38 verification of ability to work with children as demonstrated by sixty contact hours in any one
39 of the following areas as validated by the school principal: sixty contact hours in the classroom,
40 of which at least forty-five must be teaching; sixty contact hours as a substitute teacher, with at
41 least thirty consecutive hours in the same classroom; sixty contact hours of teaching in a private
42 school; or sixty contact hours of teaching as a paraprofessional, for an initial four-year ABCTE
43 certificate of license to teach, except that such certificate shall not be granted for the [areas of
44 early childhood education, elementary education, or] **area of special education. For**
45 **certification in the area of elementary education, ninety contact hours in the classroom**
46 **shall be required, of which at least thirty shall be in an elementary classroom.** Upon the
47 completion of the requirements listed in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this subdivision, an
48 applicant shall be eligible to apply for a career continuous professional certificate under
49 subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of this section:

50 (a) Completion of thirty contact hours of professional development within four years,
51 which may include hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum;

52 (b) Validated completion of two years of the mentoring program of the American Board
53 for Certification of Teacher Excellence or a district mentoring program approved by the state
54 board of education;

55 (c) Attainment of a successful performance-based teacher evaluation; and

56 (d) Participate in a beginning teacher assistance program.

57 2. All valid teaching certificates issued pursuant to law or state board policies and
58 regulations prior to September 1, 1988, shall be exempt from the professional development
59 requirements of this section and shall continue in effect until they expire, are revoked or
60 suspended, as provided by law. When such certificates are required to be renewed, the state
61 board or its designee shall grant to each holder of such a certificate the certificate most nearly
62 equivalent to the one so held. Anyone who holds, as of August 28, 2003, a valid PC-I, PC-II,
63 or continuous professional certificate shall, upon expiration of his or her current certificate, be
64 issued the appropriate level of certificate based upon the classification system established
65 pursuant to subsection 3 of this section.

66 3. Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the state shall be based upon
67 minimum requirements prescribed by the state board of education which shall include
68 completion of a background check as prescribed in section 168.133. The state board shall
69 provide for the following levels of professional certification: an initial professional certificate
70 and a career continuous professional certificate.

71 (1) The initial professional certificate shall be issued upon completion of requirements
72 established by the state board of education and shall be valid based upon verification of actual
73 teaching within a specified time period established by the state board of education. The state
74 board shall require holders of the four-year initial professional certificate to:

75 (a) Participate in a mentoring program approved and provided by the district for a
76 minimum of two years;

77 (b) Complete thirty contact hours of professional development, which may include hours
78 spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum, or for holders of a certificate under
79 subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this section, an amount of professional development in
80 proportion to the certificate holder's hours in the classroom, if the certificate holder is employed
81 less than full time; and

82 (c) Participate in a beginning teacher assistance program;

83 (2) (a) The career continuous professional certificate shall be issued upon verification
84 of completion of four years of teaching under the initial professional certificate and upon
85 verification of the completion of the requirements articulated in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of
86 subdivision (1) of this subsection or paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of subdivision (5) of
87 subsection 1 of this section.

(b) The career continuous professional certificate shall be continuous based upon verification of actual employment in an educational position as provided for in state board guidelines and completion of fifteen contact hours of professional development per year which may include hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum. Should the possessor of a valid career continuous professional certificate fail, in any given year, to meet the fifteen-hour professional development requirement, the possessor may, within two years, make up the missing hours. In order to make up for missing hours, the possessor shall first complete the fifteen-hour requirement for the current year and then may count hours in excess of the current year requirement as make-up hours. Should the possessor fail to make up the missing hours within two years, the certificate shall become inactive. In order to reactivate the certificate, the possessor shall complete twenty-four contact hours of professional development which may include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within the six months prior to or after reactivating his or her certificate. The requirements of this paragraph shall be monitored and verified by the local school district which employs the holder of the career continuous professional certificate.

(c) A holder of a career continuous professional certificate shall be exempt from the professional development contact hour requirements of paragraph (b) of this subdivision if such teacher has a local professional development plan in place within such teacher's school district and meets two of the three following criteria:

- a. Has ten years of teaching experience as defined by the state board of education;
 - b. Possesses a master's degree; or
 - c. Obtains a rigorous national certification as approved by the state board of education.
4. Policies and procedures shall be established by which a teacher who was not retained due to a reduction in force may retain the current level of certification. There shall also be established policies and procedures allowing a teacher who has not been employed in an educational position for three years or more to reactivate his or her last level of certification by completing twenty-four contact hours of professional development which may include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within the six months prior to or after reactivating his or her certificate.

5. The state board shall, upon completion of a background check as prescribed in section 168.133, issue a professional certificate classification in the areas most closely aligned with an applicant's current areas of certification, commensurate with the years of teaching experience of the applicant, to any person who is hired to teach in a public school in this state and who possesses a valid teaching certificate from another state or certification under subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this section, provided that the certificate holder shall annually complete the state board's requirements for such level of certification, and shall establish policies by which

124 residents of states other than the state of Missouri may be assessed a fee for a certificate license
125 to teach in the public schools of Missouri. Such fee shall be in an amount sufficient to recover
126 any or all costs associated with the issuing of a certificate of license to teach. The board shall
127 promulgate rules to authorize the issuance of a provisional certificate of license, which shall
128 allow the holder to assume classroom duties pending the completion of a criminal background
129 check under section 168.133, for any applicant who:

- 130 (1) Is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces stationed in Missouri;
- 131 (2) Relocated from another state within one year of the date of application;
- 132 (3) Underwent a criminal background check in order to be issued a teaching certificate
133 of license from another state; and
- 134 (4) Otherwise qualifies under this section.

135 6. The state board may assess to holders of an initial professional certificate a fee, to be
136 deposited into the excellence in education revolving fund established pursuant to section
137 160.268, for the issuance of the career continuous professional certificate. However, such fee
138 shall not exceed the combined costs of issuance and any criminal background check required as
139 a condition of issuance. Applicants for the initial ABCTE certificate shall be responsible for any
140 fees associated with the program leading to the issuance of the certificate, but nothing in this
141 section shall prohibit a district from developing a policy that permits fee reimbursement.

142 7. Any member of the public school retirement system of Missouri who entered covered
143 employment with ten or more years of educational experience in another state or states and held
144 a certificate issued by another state and subsequently worked in a school district covered by the
145 public school retirement system of Missouri for ten or more years who later became certificated
146 in Missouri shall have that certificate dated back to his or her original date of employment in a
147 Missouri public school.

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